Recd March 4th
Ans March 25 Cambridge, 23 Feb. 1855.

Dear Engelmann

I have been wanting to write you a long letter; but time fails to-day.

I send you, by mail, a pamphlet from Braun. Could you not give a brief abstract or notice of what it is about, and I would have it noticed in Silliman's Journal.

I have been for a month at Washington — all January — giving some lectures for the Smithsonian Institution. Since my return I have been working at Flora, & driving away, as hard as possible.

Soon, at intervals, I will resume the assorting of Berlandier's plants. Did you get the mss & drawings I sent of his? &c &c —

How early in the spring will you pay us the promised visit? How soon will you have mss of Cuscuteae ready?

Ever thine.

A. Gray

I am well, hearty, & in good working order. Hope you are the same.

Agassiz looks pretty well. There is a rumor he would be appointed Professor at Edinburgh. But I hear no more of it now.

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MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

Recd March 12
Ans March 25

Cambridge. March 6th 1855

Tuckerman Lichens
for Dr Brendel

Dear Engelmann

An early answer to your favor of the 17th ult is better than a late one, even if more full.

Bigelow is at his home I believe Lancaster, Ohio. I do not correspond with him myself. Torrey does— Torrey told me for a long while he could get no answers from him: but at length his daughter wrote him that he was down with typhoid fever, and a good part of the family also— but convalescent.

I think Torrey has the impression that you have his Cactea.

I have the Eriogonum flavum from Upper Missouri country— from Gov. Stevens' party.
Melocact. Carruthii is Ech. tex

I enclose some flowers from Thurber's Fouquiera spinosa. You know my former remarks on it were from flowers I examined in Hooker's herbarium.

Of F. formosa I do not remember whether I ever saw a specimen, or whether my knowledge of it is all from Kunth's figure.

I had forgot all about that Guaiacum in Gregg's 1849. That collection is still stored away in my chamber devoted to packages — safe — & never looked at — too much trouble — If they were, or a set of them, now in my herbarium, perhaps I might do something with them, as I get Berlandier's plants in order. I must finish the distribution of Berlandier's soon — But I suspect there are a great many wide gaps in the ~~all~~ ~~ser~~ series of numbers — some hundreds at once — packages lost? And I do not know if the rest are any of them numbered.

I mean to prefix to the next Pl. Wrightianae a list of names ~~& nos.~~ to the numbers of all of Berlandier's I find, up to the end of Compositae. — Those after can be mentioned along with the rest.

The spiteful & wretched attack on Henry & the majority of Board of Regents of Smithsonian fails to make any serious impression at Washington. And here the general impression is turning. It is too long to write details. You see, or should see how Henry was sustained in the Senate when Choate threw his parting fire-brand, (see Congressional Globe) & and what a thorough decision in his favor was given by the unanimous Report of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate. In the House of Reps. the Committee — intended to be hostile, with a hostile Chairman — was divided & two conflicting Reports sent in at the last moment.

The whole result is I think a triumph over a very base & malicious & unscrupulous attack. — An attempt to manufacture a false public opinion through the newspapers and their vile Washington correspondents — whose slanders are probably paid for. —

The larva of that little brown *Anthrenus* is my great pest — also Hooker's &c. How did it happen that you have not been troubled with it before? I keep camphor largely in cases — especially in the spring — and use corrosive sublimate in *strong* alcohol.

If you have any of the Fossils are to send to Torrey — he can tell about it. He has much taken to [illegible] lately.

True California Red-wood = *Sequoia sempervirens*
The other big tree = Wellingtonia Lindl. = *Sequoia gigantea*.
Bark *very* fibrous

Now about your trip. I have been *counting* on a visit from you; but I see the difficulty if you go abroad the next year.

Well. if you can come shall be most glad to see you. In 1856, you will be in time. I suspect, to arrange with DeCandolle the N. Amer. Euphorbiaceae for the Prodromus

I have just revised Plantago for Flora. What a mess Decaisne has made — The peculiar diæcio-dimorphous character — more or less decided in diff. sections — absent from some — has not been detected by him. His sect. Novorbis is the submasc. of the true fertile plants of his section Cleiosantha.

I shall soon drive in to some of the larger families of Monopet. Torrey long ago tinkered the Acanth. a little. Probably I cannot get him to do any more — but shall attack them myself.

You would enjoy the trip to Europe greatly, And on your return I wish you could set down here — able to leave the physic — and work at Botany, in which truly, the laborers are ~~few~~ few.

I have not heard from Wright since they left Hong Kong. I am very remiss myself — having 2 or 3 of his long letters unanswered. Many thanks for the labels of Lindh. Plants, &c — My work in College begins to-day, But is not very much, till the 1st of April.

Ever Yours

A. Gray

Recd Sept 30th
Ans Oct 13 Cambridge. March 26 1855

My Dear Engelmann

Let me introduce to you my friend the Hon. Miss Murray of London, whom you will find full of scientific zeal and interest, and of activity equal to your own.

Your kind offices I know will be at her service in seeing what is interesting around you, both as to Western life and Western Vegetation; — in all which you will confer what will be esteemed a personal favor on Yours very cordially

Asa Gray

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Recd April 7th
Ans Apr 13

Cambridge 31st March 1855

Dear Doctor

I have yours of the 25th two days ago. Dr Bigelow is with you! and you are working hard at Cactea —

You must do up the N. Amer. Cuscutinae this summer — Also Asclepiads. — In which case — I see you will not visit us this spring.

Perhaps you will come to the Scientific meeting, which is in August (I believe) and at Providence, Rhode Island — Very near us! I hope you will come then.

I will enquire and tell you the exact time.

And next year, you will quit the Profession — at least for the present, and go to Europe. & work at Botany (Settle down at Cambridge & educate the children — while we work together? — I hope so!)

We want more workers in Botany sadly. There is no-body to do any thing, hardly.

You know Agassiz is said to have the offer of the Nat. History professorship at Edinburgh, vacated by the death of Edward Forbes—

Were he not married I think he would go — Now, he doubtless will not — His wife does not like the idea—

I do not like his plan

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for keeping school for girls, — though he will make money by it — freely — But it will take far more of his time than he supposes & retard, instead of advancing publication.

The thing wanted is to get things written out all ready for the printer. I imagine that there is no difficulty about mere publication, i.e. as to the expense —

The Smithsonian has plates of 2 memoirs costing $1000 — on hand 5 years, & cannot get the letter-press to publish!

As to the Lichenes of Tuckerman. I will see if I can find it here — If not, I will get the volume of Academy Proceedings

or ask Tuckerman to furnish
it (He lives at Amherst now.)
He will be glad to — for the sake
of a correspondent in that region,
I presume.

I found it necessary to break
off other things & distribute the
rest of Berlandier's collection.
It is done. The remaining
thick bundle for you lies on
my table to go, on Monday to
Abner Curtis, Boston to be
sent in case to Mr. Dittman
or somebody to St. Louis. —

I must now put my own
set in working order. —

Good night
Yours ever
A. Gray

P.S. Monday
I found a bound copy of Tuckerman's
Lichens at bookstore, & mailed it to Dr
F. Brendel, Peoria, Illinois.
Cost 75 cts — postage 9 cts — = .84

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Recd June 3d Ans Jun 12

Cambridge, 28 May 1855

My Dear Friend

I want to write to you not a little, but cannot get time yet. Meanwhile I send you the enclosed letter from DeCandolle — as you may like to read what he says about the Euphorbiaceae & the next vols. of Prodromus —

Return it to

Yours ever

A. Gray

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Draba micrantha

Var. minima — siliques compressed

—— Caul [illegible] very hispid both

leaves with strongly recurved pedicels

Nasturtium — obtusum fr. hisp

Vesicaria fr. acute — hispid pubescens

strongly recurved

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Rec= June 23rd
Ans Oct 13

Cambridge. 18th June 185[illegible]

Dear Engelmann.

I have to-day yours of the 12th— I must answer it by snatches.

I am sorry Torrey has mentioned Euphorbias by name without working them up.— This does no good— only adds to the labor when they come to be elaborated. I suppose he may have felt it necessary to enumerate the plants collected somehow.

Vesicaria didymocarpa = Physaria, Nutt, vide Gen. Ill. 1. p. ,

Vesicaria Lindh. ②? — I feel less & less confidence in the char. of ⊙ — ② or 4 for this genus — especially of the species that grow in dry regions —

Vesicaria alpina. — I have a species from Tennessee (Lesquereux) quite connecting Vesicaria & Alyssoides with *Alyssum*.

Berlandier's 710, 778, 1517, 2127, 2198, 3017, 3102, = a new spec. of *Synthlipsis* (*Berlandieri*) — rather approaching Vesicaria, on the other hand!

Truly *genera* in plants are not absolute, as Agassiz says they are in Animals.

The *Nasturtium calycinum* is new to me. I will sow the seed soon.

Astragalus Drummondii & A. Plattensis, in fruit I want much — as I have them in flower only in Stevens (Coopers) collection which I have yet to report on.

presently. I could work in any notes you will send me — on any of Hayden or other plants, of the region — Char. of Euphorbias, to be — only send betimes.

Your Cerastium? — Stellaria longipes T. & G. (S. Edwardsii or læta.) — I suppose.

A very few of Bigelow's Cactus-seed have germinated here yet.

Agassiz is smart — plenty of money being raised here for aiding him to publish — He has sent you his circular, has he not? Boston people will always give him money enough.

Did you receive translation of 1st part of Braun's, Individual in Plants Pt. I. I sent?

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Hooker writes "I have a nice letter from Engelmann, who promises soon to come to England & then finish his Cuscuteae."

I save up yours of April 13 yet to answer your queries about Opuntia &c if I can.

Publish your Synopsis of Cactae soon — either in Silliman's Journal, or in Proceedings Amer. Acad. — Silliman perhaps best.

I am so sorry there must be so many species of them, It is very hard to feel confidence in them.

I had a very interesting letter from Fendler — and I want to write to him in return — ✱

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#Mr. Curtis wants him to collect Fungi for him.

Really I know nothing of Nuttall's & Rafinesque's Jonatica & am confident there are no specimens anywhere preserved. Nor do I know Elliott's. — The Southern men should send them.

Did I write you that I want to carry the new ed. of Manual west to the Mississippi — & want notes on plants — by & by. — Do not trouble yourself yet — & please put your casual notes on separate slips of paper, written on one side.

The Students are having miniature photographs taken of their Professors — on Glass — & so printing off copies on paper with sun-light — Here is one — a poor one — of

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MISS BOTA GAR

me. I will get you a good one of Agassiz, if you will remind ~~you~~ me & send it.

I want yours very much for my Botanical collection.

Can you not come to the Providence meeting in August? I fear not. But if you do, you are to stay with me here a few days —

Ever yours

A. Gray

June 18th 1855

ans.

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MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

Recd Sept 8th
Ans Octob 13

Cambridge, Sep. 1st. 55

Dr. Geo. Engelmann.

Dear Sir,

Dr. Gray having left very suddenly for Europe last Wednesday, wished me to write to you to let you know of his absence, which I hope may not be long — He has gone to look after my youngest brother, who just returning after nearly three years absence, travelling for his health which had very much improved, was taken ill with a slow typhoid fever in Paris; & as the accounts still represented him as lingering along without the fever having yet reached a crisis; it was thought best some one should go out to take care of him & accompany him home. — I hope he may be back in 6 or 8 weeks, but of course all must depend on the invalid's health —

He said this envelope with the enclosed slips had been addressed to you for some time, & I promised to see it on its way to you —

It was only decided Monday that he should go, & he had, of course, to leave many things

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neglected.—

If you have anything you wish to say to him, his address is to the care of Messrs Barings & Brothers, London— or if you will send it to me to the care of P. T. Jackson Esq., Milk St., Boston, I will enclose it to him—

We have been enjoying a very pleasant visit from Mrs. Skinner & her dear little girl this summer—

Very truly Yours,
Jane L. Gray—

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Rec^d Octob 1st
Ans Octob 13

Boston. Sep. 24th. '55

Dr. Engelmann –

My dear Sir,

I have done a very careless thing, & write to you hoping you may be able to aid me in repairing it — I found in the Cambridge P.O. last week a letter from you to Dr. Gray, & on the outside was written where to send for a bundle of plants for him – I laid the envelope aside to send the Express-man for them, but am sorry to say it is lost, & I do not know now where to send. — I have a sort of impression that the name was Miers — Can you help me to get hold of the bundle? I am very sorry for the trouble my carelessness must give to you & to others; but I do hope that I may not have been so unfortunate as to cause the loss of the plants. —

We are hoping this week to receive letters from Dr. Gray telling us of his arrival in England, & when he returns.

Very truly yours,

Jane L. Gray —

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Please direct to the care of
P. T. Jackson Esq. Milk St., Boston,
as I am staying in Boston while
Dr. Gray is away.—

Buttler Keith & Hill
Hardware Merchant

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Recd Octob 25th
Ans Nov 25

Cambridge, 18th Oct. 1855,

My Dear Engelmann.

Yours of Aug 30th (answered by my wife) was written when I was one day at sea. Yours of Oct. 13. which arrived to-day, was written two days after I reached home again. I had two very pleasant voyages, on the whole, and not long 10½ & 11½ days. 11 days in Paris (where I was detained a little by a severe cold on my lungs) and a week in England — mostly at London & Kew. I found my brother-in-law so convalescent that I might have staid at home, and I brought him home with me, in good condition. We had hoped, till the last moment to get places in the steamer of the 13th October, and have had a fortnight more in England. But all the places had been engaged for months, and nobody was giving up berths up to the time we sailed. So we had to come in steamer of 29th ult. — where we got a good state-room by great luck, tho' the vessel was greatly crowded. Dr. Jos. D. Hooker (whom I wanted to see for some time) being away in Germany — and time being extremely valuable to me here, I was on the whole very glad to get home. The Naturalists were *en* vacance at Paris. & mostly away. I saw only Brongniart.

Spach, Gay, Dr. Montagne, & Trécul (who sent I believe some pamphlets for you — the package is not yet unpacked), and my good friend Vilmorin. Boissier was there from Geneva.

In England I spent all the little time I could command at dear Hooker's at Kew. and Bentham, then in the country, came down to see me. I made a long & interesting call on R. Brown — who is very old, but full of interest. I shall not again see this Nestor of Botanists, as well as facile princeps, in this world.

Hooker was much delighted when I told him you were coming next spring to see him at Kew. He insisted upon taking me over to see the Cactus house, & all through it, so that I might tell you what a mass of Cacteæ there are there; and he will be much pleased to have you work among these. He spoke about his Cuscuteæ, but was not at all displeased at your retaining them; begged you would work them up if possible before returning them. You will be charmed with Sir Wm when you see him.

I shall be most glad to have your photograph

We take them here on paper better I think than at Paris. In England they now do pretty well.

Mrs. Gray meanwhile had got the parcel you sent by Meier. You are mistaken in thinking it had reached me before I left. The specimen of Cymopterus was sent me in a letter.

The meeting at Providence was a very good one. I have seen no good reports. I know nothing of any know-nothing movements there. What can you mean?

Pray finish up Cactus while you are about it — so that you can take up something else. I am glad your season for botanical working is at hand.

Hon. Miss Murray was as much pleased with you, as you with her. She is a remarkable person, truly. She is now sitting at the table where I write, dozing after dinner. She has recently returned to Boston, spends to-night with us — and is to depart for England in the Steamer Canada next Wednesday, — with a ship load of specimens, dead and alive, plants, fossils, &c. &c. — She was speaking of her visit to you, before your letter arrived, and she desired me, when I write, to give her best regards & remembrances to you, and to Mrs. Engelmann.

I hope your Opuntias will run together, — so as to reduce the species to a dozen or so.

I will see what nos. 993 & 1455. Berlandier Coll. are.

1455. Berl. = 195.
993. " = 2423.

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As to Manual, my plan, as at present advised, is to cross the line of slavery a little — to take in Kentucky and Virginia; this makes the real division in botanical geography between north & south. It should be northern ground too, down to this line; for north of it slave labor is good for nothing; and there would be no slaves there, except for the southern market. I cannot take in Missouri, for I must make the Mississippi my boundary. But all your St. Louis plants cross into Illinois do they not? Tell me how this is. I shall get at work at the new ed. soon. I shall first press on the Lessons a little further.

About Fouquieria — I have examined it here repeatedly on the live plant, which every year prolongs its main axis an inch or two. And I took leaves to Providence to show these, — especially to remove any lingering doubt on Torrey's mind. For Torrey would long have it that the spine was a primary leaf, and that an axillary leaf adhered to it by its petiole. He now knows better.

I just saw Agassiz. He looks well & strong.

Our friend Torrey has met with a sad bereavement in the death of his wife while I was away. She was an early and dear friend of mine, and I shall miss her greatly. To Dr. Torrey the loss is irreparable.

I read Alph. DeCandolle's Géographie Botanique raisonnée on the voyage home; a most able work it is, full of interesting matter very methodically arranged. Hooker & Thomson's Flora Indica, vol. 1 is famous for its able introductory essay, &c.

My wife desires her best regards to you
Ever Yours

Asa Gray

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MISSOURI
BOTANICAL
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Rec.d Dec 15
Ans Jan 5

Cambridge. Dec. 10. 1854

Dear E.

I send you pr. Express to-day (or to-morrow) a little parcel containing ~~the~~ a set of the Loranthaceae of Whipple's Exped. Calif. coll. by Bigelow. Torrey sent on this set to me, with those of other orders — some for me to revise his work a little — some to do myself — these Loranthaceae are in the latter case — Why he did not send them on to you long ago is a wonder. There are 1 or 2 novelties among them. Please do them. The mss. is wanted soon — Take any portions of the specimens you want. Also indicate what ones you care for, & I will ask Torrey to have them for you — Or, better keep any part of these you need — always sending me back a portion with Torrey's ticket — for proper identification.

Thanks for yours of Nov. 25.

I am dreadfully driven —

No. 993 Berl. = exactly 2423. Flowers collected probably from the very same plant, & the same day —
You know not what a scamp Berlandier was — He collected a great stock — distributed a portion one year — say no. 993 — the rest next year,

Say. 2423. &c &c

His original tickets enable me to ascertain that he proceeded systematically with this knavery year after year,— sometimes selling specimens gathered from the same tree 3 or 4 times over, under as many diff^t numbers.

Ever dear E. Yours cordially

A. Gray

P.S.

Torrey does not know your names for many Euphorbiae, & so is naming them over— while he would wish to take your names, if he knew them.

Pray send me by mail, your names for the nos. of Lindh. Fendler, & Wright's Euphorbias as far as you have them fixed.

A. G.

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